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HISTORICAL SOCIETY of GREATER LANSING P. O. Box 515, Lansing, Michigan

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# HISTORICAL SOCIETY GOES TO JAIL

The Historical Society of Greater Lansing will be taken into custody by Sheriff Kenneth Preadmore at 8:00 P. M., Wednesday October 13 at the county jail. It just has to happen on the thirteenth.

All members of the society and interested friends are invited to attend. The group will assemble in the chapel where our host will relate interesting facts about the old jail (a near lynching) and the history of the new modern facility. Rehabilitation of institutionalized members and long term planning will be explained.

There will be refreshments.

The new Ingham County Jail is located at 630 N. Cedar, Mason. This is at the north end of town and just to the north of old U. S. 127.

### THE NEGRO IN MICHIGAN HISTORY

A committee has recently been organized to explore early negro history in Michigan and to search out and establish facts for the record. Powell Lindsay is chairman. The group has already held two meetings.

At present a trip to Addison, Michigan is being planned to visit the site of Woodstock Manual Labor Institute, a negro institution established in 1846 for the purpose of educating fugitives. The school was located in Lenawee Co., one mile north of Addison on the north side of Greenleaf Road.

Prior Foster, the Institute's founder, who, with his brother Joseph had escaped with their families from Kentucky, provided a wellrounded curriculum for their students. Mathematics, science, the arts, literature, as well as elementary subjects were offered. Agriculture and manual training were given equal status with the sciences in the belief that they were equally important to good living.

The Institute consisted of five buildings on a two hundred acre plot, one hundred acres being improved land. There was one large school building, a boarding house, one barn and two houses on the property. (The last building was torn down just recently.) A two thousand volume library was one of the outstanding features of the school. Many of these books were donated by publishing houses.

Funds were raised from among anti-slave groups in the East and from tuition of white students in the surrounding area.

UPPER CANADA VILLAGE 2nd Inst. Ontario's Living Heritage By: Mrs. Helen Wallin, Past-President Historical Society of Greater Lansing

A very nominal fee of \$2.00 is collected at the toll gate for the visit to the village. Over the three years period of its existance over 700,000 persons have visited this memorial spot. There is a restaurant, air conditioned, and opened at all times. Bus service from Toronto or Montreal is welcome for the person who doesn't drive. Taxi service is available from nearby Morrisburg.

The Crysler Farm, which was the scene of one of Canada's most decisive battles, fought on a cold, rainy Thursday, November 11, 1813, between 800 Loyalist and 4,000 American soldiers is memorialized by a tall monument and appropriate formal gardens surrounding it.

The Memorial Gardens, surrounded by a wall built from bricks salvaged from the flooding have insets of the tombstones brought from the villages. Beautiful formal gardens held back by a cut stone walk gives beauty and peace to the veneration of the hardy pioneers whose names are enscribed on the stones.

Another monument, to the Loyalist American Regiments 1775–1784, on the green sward of the battlefield memorial, depicts a soldier with an axe and musket in hand doing the double duty of the early settlers.

A word should be said of The Ryerson Press of Toronto who has cooperated with the Government of Ontario in publication of various books and pamphlets and brochures on the history of their country. In the words of John Robarts, Prime Minister of Ontario, in one of the craft booklets available from the village store: "I welcome the support given by this great publishing house in making meaningful for the people of Ontario a part of their priceless heritage. " These publications are available at the village store for a very nominal fee.

The Provincial Government of Ontario is to be commended for its courage and foresight as it has done a splendid job. The people employed to greet you in every building have a personal pride in their work and can tell you exactly about every item or building under their care. All were especially friendly, knowledgeable and helpful.

The author of this article had six hours to spend in this delightful haven of history--you could spend six days--six weeks. I hope all history-minded persons make this a MUST on their vacation agenda. It is an especially fine example of interpretive history.

# LOCAL HISTORY ROOM AT THE LANSING PUBLIC LIBRARY

At a recent meeting the Lansing Board of Education gave the go-ahead sign for the completion of the Local History room at the Lansing Public Library. The architect is now completing the final plans and the contract will soon be let. They hope to have the room completed within the year.

# A MEMORIAL

Wirth Johnson, a fast friend of this Society, influenced many lives with his enthusiasm for living and for history.

Friends have initiated a donation which will be given in his memory to the Michigan State Library. The fund will be used to strengthen the resources of the Michigan Section. Donations will be accepted at the Wednesday meeting, October 13.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Oct. 11-15 To

Topic: Collecting Americana.

Midwest Antique Forum at Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village.

# Oct. 13

Genesee Co. Historical and Museum Society meets at Sloan Panorama of Transportation (303 N. Walnut St. - across from Museum). Topic: Progress report on the Sloan Museum of Transportation, by Dr. Roger VanBolt.

# Oct. 13 - Nov. 14

The John S. Newberry Collection will be on display at the Detroit Institute of Arts. It is a collection of some two hundred art items recently bequeathed to the Institute by the late John S. Newberry and includes watercolors, drawings and sculpture. It represents thirtyfive years of diligent searching by a man of impeccable taste. Many famous artists are represented. Mentioning just a few, there are: In watercolors, Cezanne, Klee, Pissario and Renoir; in drawing, Degas, and perhaps most famous Henri Matisse's "Plumed Hat"; in sculpture, Barlach and Kolbe; and printmakers, Baskin and Toulouse-Lautrec.

At the time of his death in Paris (Oct. 23, 1964) Newberry was an honorary trustee of the Founders Society of the Detroit Institute of Arts, and Advisor to the Detroit's Arts Commission. He was also a generous donor to the Detroit Public Library.

